

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ABIDJA 03587 141517Z

43

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7918

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABIDJAN 3587

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.) IV

SUB: SECRETARY'S TRIP TO AFRICA-DELETION OF ABIDJAN

REF: (A) STATE 088367 (B) ABIDJAN 3481

1. AMBASSADOR CONVEYED SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL (A) TO FOREIGN MINISTER USHER THIS MORNING. USHER APPRECIATED REASON FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER'S DECISION NOT TO STOP IN ABIDJAN ON THIS TRIP.

2. USHER ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE VERY MUCH HOPED THERE WOULD BE AN OPPORTUNITY SOON FOR THE SECRETARY TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY. IT IS A GREAT PITY, SAID USHER, THAT WHEN THE SECRETARY FINALLY HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO FOCUS OF THE PROBLEMS OF AFRICA, HE CANNOT SPEAK WITH HOUPHOUET. IT IS NOT POSSIBLE, HE ADDED, TO GET A BALANCED PICTURE OF THE PRESENT AND FUTURE OF AFRICA WITHOUT TAKING HOUPHOUET'S VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT.

3. AMBASSADOR TOOK THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PRESS, AS HE ALREADY HAD WITH CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, FOR A MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT BEFORE THE LATTER GOES OFF TO EUROPE, IN ORDER TO REASSURE GOIC THAT HOUPHOUET'S CURRENT VIEWS WOULD INDEED BE CONVEYED TO THE SECRETARY, ALBEIT SECOND-HAND. SMITH

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Message Attributes

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